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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#9B
E. James
10/1/03

In re Application of:

CRAIG D. JOHNSON
MATTHEW R. HACKWORTH
DAVID W. WANG

Serial No.: 10/054,337

Filed: January 22, 2002

For: BASE-PIPE FLOW CONTROL
MECHANISM

Confirmation No.: 4747

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Zakiya Nicole Walker

Attorney Docket: 2032.007700/DCD
(68.0233)

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
DATED JUNE 20, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First-Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:

9/18/03 *Kathy Maras*
Date Signature

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 20, 2003, for which the three-month date for response is September 22, 2003, as September 20, 2003 falls on a Saturday and September 21, 2003 falls on a Sunday.

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks to the Office Action begin on page 10 of this paper.

If an extension of time is required to enable this paper to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this paper is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

This Amendment increases the total number of independent claims by two to five independent claims and increases the total number of claims by 14 claims to 34 total claims. Accordingly, please find enclosed herewith a check in the amount of \$420.00 for the new claims. If the check is missing or insufficient, or if any other fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, except an issue fee, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Williams, Morgan & Amerson, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0786/2032.007700DCD.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.